

DRAFT
February 13, 2018
Regular Meeting

MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL MEETING

At 5:45pm, prior to the City Council meeting, John M. Altman, Jr., was sworn in as the new city manager.

A Meeting of the City Council of the City of Hopewell, Virginia, was held Tuesday, February 13, 2018, at 6:00 p.m. in the City Council Chambers, Municipal Building, 300 North Main Street, Hopewell, Virginia.

PRESENT:

Jackie Shornak, Mayor
Jasmine E. Gore, Vice Mayor (arrived at 6:05 pm)
Christina J. Luman-Bailey, Councilor
Anthony J. Zevgolis, Councilor
Janice B. Denton, Councilor
Brenda S. Pelham, Councilor

John M. Altman, Jr., City Manager
Charles Dane, Assistant City Manager
Stefan M. Calos of Sands Anderson PC, City Attorney
Ronnieye L. Arrington, City Clerk

ABSENT: Arlene Holloway, Councilor

ROLL CALL

Mayor Shornak opened the meeting at 6:01 p.m. Roll call was taken as follows:

Mayor Shornak	-	present
Vice Mayor Gore	-	absent (arrived at 6:05 pm)
Councilor Luman-Bailey	-	present
Councilor Holloway	-	absent
Councilor Zevgolis	-	present
Councilor Denton	-	present
Councilor Pelham	-	present

CLOSED MEETING

At 6:05 p.m. Councilor Pelham moved to go into closed meeting for (1) discussion and consideration of prospective candidates for employment (city attorney); (2) discussion of appointment of specific appointees of city council (CPMT, Library Board, Opioid Task Force); (3) discussion of specific appointees of city council (city clerk); (4) discussion concerning a prospective business where no previous announcement has been made of the business' interest in locating or expanding its facilities in the community; (5) consultation with legal counsel and briefings by staff members or consultants pertaining to actual or probable litigation, where such consultation or briefing in open meeting would adversely affect the negotiating or litigating posture of city council (EEOC, CSA, cemetery, fire department, police department); and (6) consultation with legal counsel employed or retained by city council related thereto and regarding specific legal matters requiring the provision of legal advice by such counsel (Beacon), in accordance with Virginia Code § 2.2-3711 (A) (1) [three items], (5), (7), and (8), respectively, which motion was seconded by Councilor Zevgolis. Upon the roll call, the vote resulted:

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Councilor Pelham	-	Yes
Mayor Shornak	-	Yes
Councilor Luman-Bailey	-	Yes
Councilor Holloway	-	----
Councilor Zevgolis	-	Yes
Vice Mayor Gore	-	---- (arrived at 6:05 pm)
Councilor Denton	-	Yes

Motion passes 5-0

Council returned to the dais at 7:37pm, but did not come out of Closed Meeting.

AMEND/ADOPT AGENDA

Councilor Denton made a motion to amend the agenda to move Communications from Citizens so that it appeared before Unfinished Business, which motion was seconded by Vice Mayor Gore. Upon the roll call, the vote resulted.

Councilor Pelham	-	Yes
Mayor Shornak	-	Yes
Councilor Luman-Bailey	-	Yes
Councilor Zevgolis	-	Yes
Vice Mayor Gore	-	Yes
Councilor Denton	-	Yes

Motion passes 6-0

Mayor Shornak requested a roll call, the result of which was:

Mayor Shornak	-	present
Vice Mayor Gore	-	present
Councilor Luman-Bailey	-	present
Councilor Holloway	-	absent
Councilor Zevgolis	-	present
Councilor Denton	-	present
Councilor Pelham	-	present

PRAYER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Mayor Shornak called the meeting to order, and thanked all for attending. The prayer was led by Chaplain Pamela Cooper of the John Randolph Pastoral Care, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, led by Councilor Pelham.

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CONSENT AGENDA

- C-1** Minutes: Dec. 12, 2017, Jan. 18, 2018, Jan. 22, 2018
- C-2** Pending List:
- C-3** Routine Approval of Work Sessions:
- C-4** Personnel Change Report & Financial Report: Personnel Change Report included
- C-5** Ordinances on Second & Final Reading:
- C-6** Routine Grant Approval:
- C-7** Public Hearing Announcement:
- C-8** Information for Council Review:
- C-9** Resolutions/Proclamations/Presentations: Resolution appointing John M. Altman, Jr. to Riverside Community Criminal Justice Board; Resolution appointing John M. Altman, Jr. to all other boards, committees and/or commissions to which the city manager should be appointed; presentation by the IT Department responsive to requests from Vice Mayor Gore regarding a constituent complaint process linked to MUNIS
- C-10** Additional Announcements: Arlington Park Renovation Public Meeting by Aaron Reidmiller, Director of Recreation and Parks

The new city manager, March Altman, introduced the new IT Director, Dr. Concetta T. Manker. Dr. Manker began her presentation, but was interrupted by Councilor Pelham. Councilor Pelham called for a point of order, asking Mr. Calos if the Consent Agenda should be approved before Dr. Manker gave her presentation. Mr. Calos agreed. Accordingly, Councilor Denton made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda, which was seconded by Vice Mayor Gore. Upon the roll call, the vote resulted:

Councilor Pelham	-	Yes
Mayor Shornak	-	Yes
Councilor Luman-Bailey	-	Yes
Councilor Zevgolis	-	Yes
Vice Mayor Gore	-	Yes
Councilor Denton	-	Yes

Motion approved 6-0

Dr. Manker then gave Council an overview of the Munis implementation. She said that the project began January 2014, and went live September 2014. The first module was Finance. The second module was tax. It began December 2014, and it went live November 2016. The third module was business license and the fourth module was permits. They were implemented at the same time. It began in January 2015, and it went live May 2016. The fifth module was HR and Payroll. It began on January 2017, and went live July 2017. The last module was the Work Order. A request went out September 2017, the kick off meeting is March 2018, and the go live date is July 2018.

Aaron Reidmiller, Director of Recreation and Parks was absent, so Charlie Dane, the Assistant City Manager, announced the Arlington Park Renovation Public Meeting to be held at the Elks Lodge on February 20, 2018.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

The Clerk read the rules regarding Public Hearings.

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PH-1 Request for Conditional Use Permit for a self-storage facility at 4013-4017 Old Woodlawn Street, in the Corridor Development District (B-4).

At 7:55pm Tevya Griffin, Director of Development, presented to Council information regarding the applicant for the Conditional Use Permit for a self-storage facility at 4013-4017 Old Woodlawn. Mayor Shornak opened the public hearing and, stating that there was no one signed up to speak, closed it. Councilor Luman-Bailey moved to approve the request for a Conditional Use Permit to build a self-storage facility in the Corridor Development District at 4013-4017 Woodlawn Street, which motion as seconded by Councilor Zevgolis. Discussion ensued regarding an issue on the proposed color of the facility. A citizen came forward and indicated that he wanted to speak on this issue. Mayor Shornak reopened the Public Hearing. Ronald “Ronnie” Dovel spoke on the fact that a storage facility would bring no tax revenue to the City, but that hotels or restaurants would help the City. He also said that he had been a resident in the area for 30 years, and he too was opposed to the color. Mayor Shornak then closed the public hearing.

Vice Mayor Gore made a substitute motion to approve the request for a Conditional Use Permit to build a self-storage facility in the Corridor Development District and have the owner seek and receive approval from the Planning Department about the exterior design of the building. The motion was seconded by Councilor Pelham. Upon the roll call, the vote resulted.

Councilor Pelham	-	Yes
Mayor Shornak	-	Yes
Councilor Luman-Bailey	-	Yes
Councilor Zevgolis	-	Yes
Vice Mayor Gore	-	Yes
Councilor Denton	-	Yes

Motion passes 6-0

PH-2 Request for Conditional Use Permit to establish a micro-winery at 235 E Broadway in the Downtown Central Business District.

Tevya Griffin presented to Council information related to Haleys Honey Meadery’s request for a conditional use permit to establish a micro-winery. Ms. Griffin advised Council that no action was necessary and mentioned that Haleys had appeared before Council previously and obtained a CPU for another location. She stated that the Planning Commission had approved the CPU, but wanted to wait until Haleys secured proper financing. Connie Haley, the owner of Haleys Honey Meadery came forward and spoke to Council. She stated that she had financing lined up, but that she could not finalize it until she had received approval of the CPU from Council. Mr. Elliot Eliades, Chairman of the Planning Commission stood up and advised Council that the Planning Commission was unaware that Haleys had financing, and that the Planning Commission approved of the CPU. Mr. Altman advised Council that if they used the conditions set forth by the Planning Commission, they should be fine.

Councilor Zevgolis moved to approve the request for a conditional use permit to establish a micro-winery at 235 East Broadway with conditions as set by the Planning Commission. Councilor Luman-Bailey seconded the motion. Upon the roll call, the vote resulted:

Councilor Pelham	-	Yes
Mayor Shornak	-	Yes

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Councilor Luman-Bailey	-	Yes
Councilor Zevgolis	-	Yes
Vice Mayor Gore	-	---- not on dais (yes)
Councilor Denton	-	Yes

Motion passes 5-0 (technically 6-0, per Council rules)

PH-3 Request to vacate a portion of a ten-foot wide alley between PID #043-034, 043-0365 and 081-0565

Tevya Griffin presented to Council the request to vacate a portion of the ten-foot alley. She said the portion Haron Izhour was seeking to vacate was only approximately 730 square feet. She also stated that Mr. Izhour has two properties in this area, one of which would have to be brought before Council for rezoning. Councilor Denton moved to approve the request to vacate a portion of the ten-foot alley between PID #043-034, 043-0365, and 081-0565 in the High Point and West Hopewell subdivisions. The motion was seconded by Mayor Shornak. Upon the roll call, the vote resulted:

Councilor Pelham	-	Yes
Mayor Shornak	-	Yes
Councilor Luman-Bailey	-	Yes
Councilor Zevgolis	-	Yes
Vice Mayor Gore	-	Yes
Councilor Denton	-	Yes

Motion passes 6-0

COMMUNICATIONS FROM CITIZENS:

Rev. Dr. John E. Johnson, Jr., Interim Pastor of Union Baptist Church came forward. He spoke about Rev. Dr. Curtis Harris, who was the pastor of Union Baptist for 46 years, and was a member of Council for over 26 years. He also spoke of why he believed Rev. Dr. Harris' bust should be allowed to be placed in Ashford Plaza.

Councilor Pelham called a point of order. She stated that since the bust was on the agenda, Council would have to waive the rules to allow citizens to speak about it. Stefan Calos agreed with her. Councilor Pelham then moved to waive the rules to allow the citizens to speak about a matter that was already on the agenda. Her motion was seconded by Mayor Shornak. Upon the roll call, the vote resulted:

Councilor Pelham	-	Yes
Mayor Shornak	-	Yes
Councilor Luman-Bailey	-	Yes
Councilor Zevgolis	-	Yes
Vice Mayor Gore	-	Yes
Councilor Denton	-	Yes

Motion passes 6-0

After that, several people came forward to speak on behalf of Dr. Harris' bust being in the Plaza, including Teresa Brown, former Councilor James W. Patterson, Larry Cherry, Ralph and LaVerne Helfert, Rev. Vodricka Epps, Rev. Dr. Norwood G. Carson, Krestna Truell, Iris Walker, Jamar Pearson, Curtis Harris, III, Carter G. Woodson librarian. The Mayor thanked each speaker for coming forward.

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UNFINISHED BUSINESS

UB-1 Discussion Concerning Plaza Art Policy and Commission – Tevya Griffin came forward and presented a brief history on the Commission, which began as an ad hoc commission. Councilor Denton then moved for Council to be appointed as the Plaza Art Policy Commission and to approve the request of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Foundation to put Rev. Dr. Curtis Harris’ bust in the Plaza. Upon the roll call, the vote resulted:

Councilor Pelham	-	No
Mayor Shornak	-	Yes
Councilor Luman-Bailey	-	No
Councilor Zevgolis	-	No
Vice Mayor Gore	-	Yes
Councilor Denton	-	Yes

Motion fails - Vote tied 3-3

Councilor Luman-Bailey made a substitute motion to reactivate the Commission and the Commission be able to approve art in the Plaza as well as other areas of the City. The motion was seconded by Councilor Zevgolis. Upon the roll call, the vote resulted:

Councilor Pelham	-	Yes
Mayor Shornak	-	No
Councilor Luman-Bailey	-	Yes
Councilor Zevgolis	-	Yes
Vice Mayor Gore	-	No
Councilor Denton	-	No

Motion fails – Vote tied 3-3

Councilor Zevgolis made a substitute motion to delay voting on the Harris Bust until the full body of Council was in attendance at the meeting. The motion was not seconded.

Motion fails for lack of a second

Councilor Pelham repeated Councilor Zevgolis substitute motion to delay voting on the Harris Bust until the full body of Council was in attendance at the meeting, and it was seconded by Councilor Zevgolis. Upon the roll call, the vote resulted:

Councilor Pelham	-	Yes
Mayor Shornak	-	No
Councilor Luman-Bailey	-	Yes
Councilor Zevgolis	-	Yes
Vice Mayor Gore	-	No
Councilor Denton	-	No

Motion fails – Vote tied 3-3

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Councilor Gore made a substitute motion to approve the placement of the memorial in Ashford Plaza, and to have the Martin Luther King, Jr. Foundation work with Planning and come back to Council with recommendations, and to have the Clerk change the TBR to add the Commission. Upon the roll call, the vote resulted:

Councilor Pelham	-	No
Mayor Shornak	-	Yes
Councilor Luman-Bailey	-	No
Councilor Zevgolis	-	No
Vice Mayor Gore	-	Yes
Councilor Denton	-	Yes

Motion fails – Vote tied 3-3

Further discussion ensued. Mayor Shornak called for the vote. Upon the roll call, the vote resulted:

Councilor Pelham	-	No
Mayor Shornak	-	Yes
Councilor Luman-Bailey	-	No
Councilor Zevgolis	-	No
Vice Mayor Gore	-	Yes
Councilor Denton	-	Yes

Motion fails – Vote tied 3-3

After more discussion, Vice Mayor Gore made a motion to postpone this agenda item until the next scheduled meeting, and to include her previous motion on that agenda. This motion was not seconded.

Motion fails for lack of second

Vice Mayor Gore made a motion to reconsider the previous vote, which motion was seconded by Mayor Shornak. Upon the roll call, the vote resulted:

Councilor Pelham	-	No
Mayor Shornak	-	Yes
Councilor Luman-Bailey	-	No
Councilor Zevgolis	-	No
Vice Mayor Gore	-	Yes
Councilor Denton	-	Yes

Motion fails – Vote tied 3-3

REGULAR BUSINESS

Reports of City Manager:

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R-1 Report to City Council – Councilor Pelham questioned why this item was on the agenda. March Altman advised that he would either clarify by listing the items he intended to discuss under R-1, or to remove the item

R-2 Mutual Aid Agreements – Donald Hunter, Hopewell Fire Chief, advised council that both the Regional Mutual Aid Agreement with Central Virginia, and the Agreement between the National Park Service and the Hopewell Fire Department were to allow our Fire and EMS workers to come to the aid of Colonial Heights, Hopewell, Petersburg, Richmond, Amelia, Caroline, Charles City, Chesterfield, Cumberland, Dinwiddie, Goochland, Hanover, Henrico, King and Queen, King William, New Kent, Powhatan, Prince George, Sussex, and the Richmond Ambulance Authority, the Capital Regional Air Commission, the Defense Supply Center Richmond, and Fort Lee, and for those municipalities to be able to come to our aid as, when and if needed.

Councilor Zevgolis made a motion to approve Hopewell’s Fire and Emergency Services’ inclusion in the Regional Mutual Aid Agreement and the Agreement between National Park Service and Hopewell Fire Department, and that the city manager be authorized to sign all necessary documents related thereto, which motion was seconded by Councilor Denton. Upon the roll call, the vote resulted:

Councilor Pelham	-	Yes
Mayor Shornak	-	Yes
Councilor Luman-Bailey	-	Yes
Councilor Zevgolis	-	Yes
Vice Mayor Gore	-	Yes
Councilor Denton	-	Yes

Motion passes 6-0

R-3 Update to Opioid Task Force - the City Manager advised Council that when the Opioid Task Force was originally appointed, the Superintendent of Schools was inadvertently left out, so it was brought back to Council to amend. Councilor Denton moved to revise the appointment to include, the Superintendent of Schools or his/her designee, along with the Mayor, the Vice Mayor, the City Manager, the Chief of Police, the Fire Chief, the Commonwealth’s Attorney, the Sheriff, the Social Services Director, the Director of Riverside Criminal Justice Agency the Office on Youth Coordinator, a Health Department representative, and two service providers residing in Hopewell, Virginia, who work on opioid-related issues. Councilor Zevgolis seconded the motion. Upon the roll call, the vote resulted:

Councilor Pelham	-	Yes
Mayor Shornak	-	Yes
Councilor Luman-Bailey	-	Yes
Councilor Zevgolis	-	Yes
Vice Mayor Gore	-	Yes
Councilor Denton	-	Yes

Motion passes 6-0

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APPOINTMENTS

Councilor Pelham moved to appoint Ann Williams to the Library Board. Vice Mayor Gore seconded the motion. Upon the roll call, the vote resulted:

Councilor Pelham	-	Yes
Mayor Shornak	-	Yes
Councilor Luman-Bailey	-	Yes
Councilor Zevgolis	-	Yes
Vice Mayor Gore	-	Yes
Councilor Denton	-	Yes

Motion passes 6-0

Reports of City Attorney – Nothing to report.

Reports of City Clerk – Nothing to report.

Reports of City Council.

Individual Councilors

Citizen Councilor Requests:

Luman-Bailey – commented on attending Legislative Day along with the Legislative Committee. She said it was especially nice to see the new Governor. Councilor Pelham asked Councilor Luman-Bailey if she had discussed anything regarding Hopewell with the Governor, to which Councilor Luman-Bailey responded in the negative.

Gore – said she agreed that the Governor was awesome. She also gave a “shout out” to Jake Elder for is Route 36 project. She stated that attendance was not as good as it could have been, and stressed the importance of citizen participation.

Pelham – mentioned the memorial for Debra Whitfield who recently passed. She also asked that the citizens who attended the meeting tonight please come back out to attend the Arlington Park meeting, Tuesday, Feb. 20, 2018. Arlington Park is in need of repairs and a bathroom.

Gore – Requested that the Clerk add a space for the new City Manager to speak on the next agenda.

Denton – Told about the Ward 5 meeting to be held February 26, at Wesley Church. She said that it was for everyone, not just her ward.

Since it was 10:30 pm, Councilor Luman-Bailey moved to extend the meeting past the 10:30pm deadline. The motion was seconded by Vice Mayor Gore. Upon the roll call the vote resulted:

Councilor Pelham	-	No
Mayor Shornak	-	No
Councilor Luman-Bailey	-	No

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Councilor Zevgolis	-	No
Vice Mayor Gore	-	Yes
Councilor Denton	-	No

Motion fails – 5-1

ADJOURN

At 10:31 p.m. motion was made by Councilor Zevgolis and seconded by Vice Mayor Gore to adjourn. All council responded “aye” to the question.

/s/ Jackie Shornak
Jackie Shornak, Mayor

/s/ Ronnie L. Arrington
Ronnie L. Arrington, City Clerk